



Recycling Follow-Up: *What's In The Bin?*

Duration:

45-60 minutes

Objectives:

Students will:

- Learn about contaminants in the recycling bin and how that affects recycling.
- Learn the route the recyclables take after they leave the curb.
- Learn about what products are made from the materials they recycle.
- Take an action to improve waste reduction habits.

*These follow-up actions can be implemented in each of the classes the day after **Natural Connections** workshops are presented or after school on or near the day the workshops are presented.*

Summary

Students will sort the classroom's recycling bin to learn what contaminants are in the bin, where the recycling goes after it is picked up from the curb/school, and what products are made from the recycled materials. Students will have an opportunity to examine samples of products made from recycled content.

Choose an action:



Recycling Reminder Presentations:

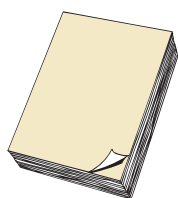
The class will be divided up into teams. With assistance and resources from the presenter, each team will create a short presentation (10 minutes) on recycling and what should and should not go in the recycling bin. Each team will give the presentation to other classes in the school. If feasible, in addition to the presentations, students can organize "surprise checks" to audit other classrooms as a follow-up to their presentations. These surprise checks - to occur throughout the semester - will be unannounced and could result in a contest to see which classroom does the best in keeping its recycling bin contaminant-free. (In-class or after school)

Sorting Through It:

Presenter leads a waste sort of a sample taken from the main recycling container. (Arrangements with the custodial staff will have to be made in advance). Students participate in sorting the recyclables (including contaminants) into categories and weighing each one. Recycling rates are calculated. The teacher can follow-up with having students create announcements and/or posters to encourage recycling and reduce contamination. Presenter will return at a date later in the school year to lead a second recycling sort. At that time the recycling rate will be calculated again to see if it has improved. (After school)



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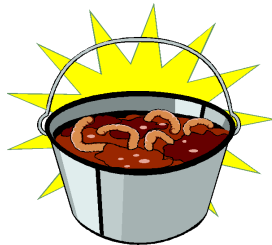
Resource Mapping:

Students will work with the presenter and a custodial staff to identify where all "resources" go, mapping out where the garbage and recycling bins and containers are located throughout the school. Students will design a plan to increase recycling rates at school, considering such methods as student involvement in collecting the recyclables

Recycling Follow-Up: *What's In The Bin?* continued

Resource Mapping: *(continued)*

and creating better signage. The presenter will need to contact the custodial staff prior the workshop follow-up to obtain the school's baseline waste and recycling rates. The teacher can follow up with having students create announcements and/or posters to encourage recycling and reduce contamination. Presenter will return at a date later in the school year to help compare before and after recycling rates. (After school)



Recycling Food Waste:

Presenter will help students build a worm bin to recycle food waste. (After school)

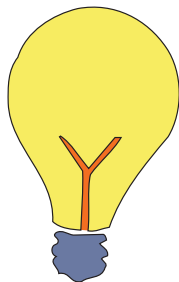
Recycling Scavenger Hunt:

Students will break up into teams for a scavenger hunt around the school campus. Teams will be allotted a certain amount of time to complete the hunt. The winning team will be rewarded. An additional take-home scavenger hunt will be provided to the teacher for use as an optional assignment bonus points/extra credit. (After school or in class)



*Time may be needed to coordinate with custodial staff.
Please plan in advance.*

Additional ideas for teachers:



Announcements & Articles:

Students will break up into teams. Each team will decide on writing either an article for the school paper or creating recycling announcements for the school.

Recycling Posters:

Students will create recycling posters to be placed around school reflecting what they have learned. (Rainy day back-up activity for follow-up actions)



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